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REVIEW

OF THE

Affairs of *FRANCE*:

Purg'd from the Errors and Partiality of *News-Writers* and
Petty-Statesmen, of all Sides.

Saturday, December 30. 1704.

I Have done with the Digression our Private Errors forc'd me to; I return to the Subject where I left off.

I am upon the Article of our Trade with *France*, or rather, their Trade with us; I have noted how at the beginning of the Rupture between the Kingdoms, the *French* Trade to *England* was carried vastly to their Gain, and our Loss, by reason of the prodigious Export of their Liquids, Silks, &c.

Before I go on farther with the Particulars of the present State of this Trade, I am to shew how 'tis fallen from being so much to their Advantage, to its being now as much to ours; and here 'tis necessary to Examine our own Affairs a little.

A Multitude of *French* Refugees thronging into this Nation, on Account of Religion, or on pretence of Religion, let the Uncharitable judge which way they please; these People being, generally speaking, all Mechanicks, fell immediately to Trade, in order to get Bread; some to one Employment, some to another.

As a great many of them fell upon our Woollen Trade, so they generally Enclin'd to Work our Wooll into such kinds of Goods, as they had been accusom'd to work on in their own Countries, rather than to fall into our Manufactures, which they did not understand. From hence it appears, that among our Combers,

Wheel-spinners, Broad-cloth, or Serge-makers, you have few or no *French*.

The first Effort of the *French* Refugees, was our thin Black Crapes, a Manufacture purely their own; and I refer to the Memory of People Conversant in Trade, how Universally it pleas'd our People; so that the least Quantity of Wooll, that ever was heard of in a Garment, supplying the room of a Suit of Cloth, it became a General Habit, and the Ladies of the best Quality began to appear in a Gown and Petticoat under 25 Shillings; till the Meanness of the Price giving every Servant an Opportunity to be as fine as her Mistress, it grew a little obsolete among the Women; then the Men fell into it. It serv'd Gentlemen for Waistcoats, all Men for Linings, and the Clergy for Gowns; till an Unhappy Author, writing a Book, call'd, *Speculum Crape-Gownorum*, tho' the Book had no manner of regard to the Vehicle of the Gown, but was a Reply to, or rather Banter on Sir Roger L'Estrange's Guide to the Inferiour Clergy; yet these Gentlemen took the Hint, and immediately took a Picque at the Crape-Gown, as a Type of an Inferiour Clergyman, to the Irreparable Damage of the Innocent Manufacture, which never recovered its Reputation to this Day: *But this by the by.*

As the *French* Refugees applied themselves to Industry and Labour, they not only Introduced

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duc'd Alterations in our Manufactures, by setting up such sorts of Woollen Goods, as were before made in *France*; but, as in like Cases it always happen'd, they begun to erect such *French* Manufactures, as we used to have in great Quantities from them; such as *Hats, Glass, Paper, Lustrings, Canvas, Sail-cloth*, and several sorts of *Wrought Silks*.

The two first of these we have absolutely master'd, and brought them to such a Perfection, as that in open Trade they are content to receive them from us; and the other are in a great measure improv'd, and in a Prospect of Increase.

By this Method, five exceeding great Articles of our Import from them are lessen'd, if not quite sunk; and here those Gentlemen, who cry out, Our Manufactures sink; and are made Abroad, would do well to consider, Whether we do not daily Encrease in making other Manufactures, as well as in losing some Quantity of our own; but these Flegmatick Gentlemen are for doing any Country Justice, but their own.

The Manufacture of *Glass* and *Hats*, we have absolutely and entirely made our own, as is before noted; and I think, I need not spend my own Time, or the Readers, to tell them, that *Lustrings*, or plain *Black Silks, Paper* and *Sail-cloth*, are wonderfully Improv'd, vast Quantities of them made in *England*, and great Numbers of our Poor daily Employ'd in them; if any Man requires me to descend to Particulars, I can Inform them of near 50 White-Paper Mills, which make now extraordinary good *Paper* for the *Press*, and for the *Pen*, which within these few Years, was not to be found in this Nation. The *Lustring Company* can answer for the *Silks*; and the Multitude of Looms at work on *Canvas* and *Sail-cloth*, will prove much of the other.

I wave here what use I could make of this matter, with respect to the supplying our People with Manufactures, obtain'd to this Nation by Encroachment from our Neighbours, as a thing remote from the purpose: But thus far it answers the present Affair, these Articles have sunk exceedingly our Import of Goods from *France*.

But this was not all, as soon as the first War broke out, the strict Prohibition of Wines and Brandies from *France*; and more particularly, the high Duties on those taken by Prize, put a Check to the vast Importations from thence;

and that War holding so exceeding long, the *Portugal* Merchants soon enlarg'd their Trade, and fill'd the whole Nation with their Wines. 'Tis true, their Wines being heavy and strong, did not at first please, and we hanker'd after the old *Claret* of *Bordeaux*; but in time the Quantity wore off, and the Merchants found out Ways and Means, either to bring the *Portugal* Wines to our Palates, or Custom brought our Palates to the Wines; so that we began to forget the *French* Wines, and like the other well enough.——And for this Reason, I confess, I should much rather the Act against Sophisticating of Wines should not pass; for we Trade in Wine so much to our Advantage now, to what we did before, that we had better drink almost any thing for Wine, than fall back into the old Channel of Trade, and buy them with our ready Money from *France*.——It is a strange thing to observe, how Trade runs in Channels and Eddies, and will sometimes, like the Tides, shift the Course, change the Streams, and remove or fix Banks and Sands here or there, and on a sudden return to them again.

By these Turns of Affairs, the Channel of the Wine-Trade is quite shifted from *France* to *Portugal*, and *Spain*. It is not for me to enter into the dark Doings of our *Vintners, Wine-Coopers*, and *Brewing Merchants*. I am not examining what Quantities of *Syder*, or *Turnip-Juice* is used in that Wine we drink. 'Tis better for *England* we should drink all *Turnip-Wine*, or any Wine, than that we should drink the best Wine in *Europe*, and go back to *France* for it.

At present the Gust to the *French* Wines is laid by, and the Gross Draght of the whole Nation, is upon *Portugal Wines*; these the *Portuguese* sell us for our Manufactures, and take a large Quantity of Goods from us; and all that ready Money we us'd to pay the *French* for their Wine, Brandy, and Vinegars, is sav'd in our Pockets.

Upon the whole, it appears, that were we now actually at Peace with *France*, we should not Import any of their *Glass*, their *Hats*, or *Lustrings*, not a fifth part of the Wine, nor above a third of their *Brandys*, nor half their *Linens*; and this great Alteration, must of course, turn the Channel of Trade against them.——'Tis true, they have prohibited entirely our Trade to them for Herrings, in time of Peace, and laid high Duties on our Manufactures, but our

Lead,

Lead, our Tin, our Tobacco, our Sugars, our East-India Goods, our Corn, our Leather, and too much of our Wool; these Things they must have, they will have, and they cannot be without; and it is plain, that for these, and such

like, during the Interval of the last Peace, they receiv'd from us such Prodigious Quantities, as plainly turn'd the Scale of Trade on our side, to a great Value.

ADVICE from the Scandal. CLUB.

THE Society being apply'd to from a Gentleman of the Army, in moving Terms, could not delay their taking his Case into Consideration, tho' something out of turn.

SIR,

I Am a Young Man, of a Generous and Sober Education; but my Fortune proving insufficient, I am necessitated to the Army, in an English's Post, for a Maintenance. Where, because I can neither Swear nor Drink, I am expos'd to some Affronts from the Masters of those Arts—And am among the rest now Challeng'd to a Duel, which I have declin'd, as questioning the Lawfulness; whereupon he threatens to expose me, which will be a thing of no small Prejudice to my Affairs. So, Sir, I would desire a speedy Answer, what Method you'd advise me to take, and accordingly I shall act. I am,

Sir, Your Servant,

D. D.

This being a weighty Case, occasioned the following Resolves;

1. The Society declare, they think it hard, that it should be thought hard, that a Young Gentleman well Educated, should be forc'd to go into the Army; 'tis pity the Army, in a Cause so good too, and a War so just, should not be a School of Vertue, as well as Arms.

But they crave leave to raise some Objections against the Complaint in this Gentleman; and saving his Honor, they cannot think the Terms possible.

1. They cannot Imagine any Man in the Army will affront another for not Swearing; or that if he did, all the rest of the Gentlemen in the Army would concern themselves to prevent a Quarrel so Ridiculous: For Example, If a Mad Man of the Swearing Rank, should come and say to you, G—— D—— ye, you are an Unfashionable Dog, you can't Swear, and demand Satisfaction; we cannot but do the rest of the Gentlemen that Justice, That the worst Swearer in the Army would laugh at him for it—And so, Sir, should you.

Now you say you are Challeng'd to a Duel; but as your Letter implies, it is for not Drinking or Swearing; we wish you would have been pleas'd to have mention'd the Cause, in which Case the Answer would have been more Particular: But taking it as it is;

1. The Society allow, Sir, it an Unlawful Act, and you ought not to give or accept a Challenge.

2. The Lives of our Gentlemen ought to be expos'd to no such hazard, but for the Service of their Country.

But what must you do? That is, in a Soldiers Words, How must you maintain your Honour——

They Answer, A Man may as a Soldier, maintain his Honour and Character without Duelling, these several ways.

1. By a forward Bravery, upon all Occasions, when commanded upon Service; this distinguishes him as a Man of Courage, and effectually Guards him from any Reproach.

2. By a Courteous, Obliging, Gentlemanlike Behaviour; avoiding all Occasions of Quarrel, and giving no just Provocation.

3. If forc'd into a Broil, always to be on the Defensive.

4. If Challeng'd, openly refuse to meet; make Regular Complaint to your Superior Officers.

5. Always be ready to defend your Life with the same Bravery and Courage, as becomes a Man of Honour, in the Face of his Enemies; and 'tis humbly suppos'd, in these Cases a Man may preserve both his Life and his Honour in the Army, without either Drinking, Swearing, or Duelling.

THE Society having been apply'd to, by a Distress'd Lady, in a very Nice and Difficult Case, could do no less than afford the best Relief they can, and which they think suitable in Cases of like Emergency——

Gentlemen,

Gentlemen,

I Am a Young Lady, and am Intolerably plagu'd with a Dull Lover; I am in great Want of your Advice in the Case: And that you may not think I trifle with you, I here send you a Sample of his Poetry; in which, I think, I have not deviated from any of his Elegancies, Quantities, &c.

Ut Sol in Celis, ut Lux in Sole videtur;

Sic vultus in vultu & Habitatio tua.

So plane as is the Son amidst the Heaven,

Or Life in it for to be seen by Men;

So planely Virtue in your Face does shine,

So planely, Madam, you are all divine.

Madam, Your Eternity Adorer.

Dec. 15.

Gentlemen, Yours,

1704.

Hespera.

This poor Lady is indeed in a Deplorable Condition, if it be a Lady; but whether the Story be real, as to the Party, the Moral is mighty useful, and may serve for a Looking-glass to our Young, Whining, Canting, Adoring Lovers, that are for making *Angels* of their Mistresses first, and *Slaves* of them after.

As to giving this Person Advice, the Society cannot think she needs it; but if she does, they are of Opinion,

She should tell him, she will take a little time to consider of it; and if he desires to obtain her, he should step to School for 4 or 5 Years to learn his Hornbook, and get *Ovid de Arte Amandi*, without-book, backward; and by that time she will be dispos'd to be his humble Servant.

THe following Letter is Inserted, not in order to an Answer, but to let Gentlemen see how hardly they treat our Poor Society, that like a wiser *D*——I they should be desir'd to tell the *Dream*, and the *Interpretation* too.

To the Scandal. Club.

Gentlemen,

I Have taken a great deal of Pleasure in reading your Determination of *Scrupulous Cases*; and this makes me bold to ask your Judgment in one of my own. I am miserably perplex'd with an Unhappy Love: I have set my Affections upon a Person that I can't possibly at present obtain; as the Flame of my Love was at first kindled by her, so she herself has ever since encourag'd it: Circumstances are, at present, on both sides Unfortunate; tho' we both are willing to Marry, there is an unhappy Baulk, that neither she, or I, are able to remove. You need not tell me, I am to blame, for fixing my Thoughts upon so remote an Enjoyment,

only direct me as to my present Circumstances, and if you can, put me in a way to remove my Uneasiness. My Case, Gentlemen, deserves your Pity; and a speedy Answer will very much satisfy the impatient Desires of

Decemb.

Your very humble-Servant,

22d.

— &c.

Here's a Gentleman tells us, he is in Love, but cannot Marry, because of an Obstacle neither Party can remove; we must not blame him for Loving where he cannot expect to Enjoy; nor we must not be told the Obstacle that prevents; and 'tis beyond our Understanding to give Direction, where we know not the Circumstances: 'Twould be rude to say, If the Gentleman cannot have her, he must let her alone; and yet we really see no other Matter before us; so we refer the Gentleman to giving plainer Instructions; and publish the Circumstance to prevent Mankind taking us for Conjurers for the future.

THe Gentleman that sent a Letter to the Society, Sign'd *A. A.* and another Gentleman, who sent a Letter, Sign'd *J. M.* are desir'd to take Notice, The Author thinks their Cases Merit *Private*, rather than *Publick Answers*; in which, if they please to call at Mr. Matthews's, they may be further oblig'd.

A Gentleman, who sent a Letter to the Society, Sign'd *J. L.* dated, *Red-Lyon Square*; is desir'd to send us another Copy, his first being lost, or mislaid.

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